

Canada has maintained a commitment to improve national communication for its small population over its huge land mass, including developing national radio, film, a national corporation for public broadcasting as well as the satellite communications system. Telesat broadcasts educational information, pay television, and private television broadcasting, all in French and English. The arrangement allows information and programs to be exchanged and broadcast to remote areas of Canada. Anik channels are used by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to assemble and exchange program material from one city to another. Also, the satellite network carries live coverage of Canada's Parliament in session and made Canada one of the first nations to offer its citizens "teledemocracy" when broadcasts began on October 17, 1977. Finally, *The Globe and Mail*, Canada's major daily newspaper, is carried nationwide via satellite from Toronto to printing plants in Vancouver, Calgary, Brandon, Ottawa, and Moncton.

Telesat Canada is a commercial, shareholder-owned company, that depends on its commercial sales, and in which the federal government holds a large, but not majority, share. Its over twenty years of operational experience with telecommunications satellites has created great demand for its services in countries developing their own satellite systems.

B LISSYMBOLICS

Australian Charles K. Bliss originally invented Blissymbolics to be used as an international language. Shirley McNaughton discovered the system in 1971 when she was trying to develop a way to communicate with her students who have cerebral palsy. McNaughton and a multi-disciplinary team at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre in Toronto (called the Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre since 1985) adapted the system for use by non-speaking people. The system is now used all over the world as Bliss intended, but mainly among people with cerebral palsy who cannot speak. In 1975, the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation was established to maintain standard symbol form and to provide information to the growing number of people who want to use the system.

To use Blissymbolics successfully, persons must first be assessed to determine the best way to meet their needs and to

overcome their limitations. A Bliss board or display folder is set up for that person. There are fourteen thousand approved Blissymbols and each part of the symbol has a meaning assigned to it so it is possible to create new words by combining symbol parts. Students begin by using a pictographic system of symbols that look like that which they are meant to symbolize. They build up their vocabulary over time. To communicate, the user points to the symbols which have English translations above them. The system is effective because anyone who can read can understand what the Blissymbol user communicates. If users cannot point to the symbols with their hands, other methods, such as a pointer attached to their head, can be used. Computers are also used instead of a Bliss board by placing a template over the keyboard, and matching the Bliss symbols with the corresponding keys.

The communication that Blissymbolics makes possible has made a huge difference in the lives of people with cerebral palsy. Before learning how to communicate through Blissymbolics, students often had what were perceived to be behavioral problems and were labelled as being immature as a result of their frustration at not being able to communicate. Even some of the people who worked most closely with people with cerebral palsy were under the impression that they were not able to learn. However, once they learn how to communicate through Blissymbolics, people with cerebral palsy can learn how to read and operate a computer and can overcome their barriers of communication.

C N TOWER— Tallest freestanding structure in the world

The tallest freestanding structure in the world stands as a landmark of Toronto and of Canada's commitment to telecommunications. Completed in 1975, the tower was constructed over almost two and one-half years by Canadian National Railways. It cost \$52 million to build and stands 1,815 feet and 5 inches high (553.34 meters). Every year the tower attracts almost two million visitors who take the tour of the broadcasting facilities or visit the observation deck and the world's highest revolving restaurant. The tower is owned by Canadian National (CN), a Crown (government) corporation. The government of Canada is the sole owner of the corporation.

